BARG Newsletter March 2026

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc. #6953T
March 2026 Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting
7:30PM Friday 27th March 2026
At the Airport - All Welcome

Contacting us
BARG@BARG.ORG.AU
We're on the web.
www.barg.org.au
https://twitter.com/vk3_barg
https://www.facebook.com/groups/VK3BML/

The VP's Ramblings 3
Youth Net on the Link System 4
Thursday Morning Coffee Club 4
VK3RBT Site Work 5
The ATC Link Training Radio – A Hands-On Lesson from the Early Transistor Era 6
AX Callsigns on Anzac Day When Two Letters on the Air Carry a Nation's Memory 8
Hugh O'Rorke M.B.E. - Pioneer of CFA Radio Communications 11
From AMATEUR RADIO Magazine, February 1947 12
Grassfire near the VK3RBT Repeater Site 16
The DLARC Archive — Amateur Radio's Memory Bank 17
Mills On The Air 2026 19
Magazine Reviews 20
QST Review March 2026 20
Silicon Chip Review March 2026 22

Front Page; Blood Moon, Brian VK3ZUS

Times and dates of nets as below

Club Nets: VHF NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8 pm on 146.750 MHz - VK3RBA

HF NET: Every Thursday Night at 8 pm on 3.608 MHz - VK3BML

6m NET: Every Tuesday Night at 8:30 pm on 53.650Mhz RX / 52.650Mhz TX - FM with a 91.5 tone - VK3RWU

LINKED REPEATERS: *The local VK3RBA-70cm repeater on Mt Buninyong is part of a network of linked repeaters covering North-Western Victoria.*
Access details for this repeater have recently changed.
For full details of this linked network and access details see https://www.qrz.com/lookup/vk3rba
You can listen to the system live http://vk3rba.dyndns.org:441/
This linked system may be accessed via IRLP node 9503

BARG inc. OFFICE BEARERS

President	Vacant	Ordinary Member	Tom George VK3DMK
Vice President	Colin Consiglio VK3NCC	Ordinary Member	Ian Fairweather VK3YFD
Secretary	Peter Westgarth VK3APW	Ordinary Member	Doug Ellery VK3DRE
Treasurer	Jeff Rickerby VK3JHR	Ordinary Member	David Martin VK3KQT
Ordinary Member	Craig Cook VK3KG	Ordinary Member	Ben Daniel VK3NRD

The VP's Ramblings

Greetings everyone,

How the world changes in a blink of an eye, hope that you're all coping OK.

Unfortunately, BARG could not raise enough commitment to be in the running as a club station for the John Moyle event this year. Perhaps next year? Did you have a shot as an individual? if so the Editor would appreciate a short article for this magazine.

Testing of the new repeater equipment is complete and awaits resources for final installation.

The BARG Dining night event is a tradition that goes back many years. Everyone welcome; keep an eye out for Ian's/AXH regular email notifications. There is a quick access link leading to the booking form on the BARG Web page to make life easier. Can you make it for April?

If you've managed to come along to the well patronised Thursday coffee morning gatherings at the club rooms, you may have noticed some subtle changes in the tidiness; Thanks Bob/BNC for the ideas! Reminder: when we have have the BBQ going after General Meetings, a gold coin or two donations would be appreciated to help cover costs. This also applies on Thursday coffee mornings. Keep a lookout for the red money box. (We're working on getting the EFTPos machine operational too)

Goal for 2026 -- have you contacted someone and invite them to come along for a meeting.

Thought for the month: The 2m and 80m weekly nets are a great way to keep contact with other members as well as other regular check-ins. Your investment of 30 minutes is worthwhile, pop up and say hello, especially if you haven't been able to make recent meetings. There were a dozen participants on the 17th March!

My continued thanks to the committee and members who keep things ticking over.

Stay well, Cheers, 73

Colin vk3ncc

The next BARG General Meeting
7:30PM Friday 27th of March 2026

(Please note the April General Meeting could be 11:00AM Saturday 2nd May due to Anzac day being on the usual general meeting date.
This will possibility to be discussed at the March meeting)

Youth Net on the Link System

Sunday Evenings
7:00PM Local AEDT
On the VK3RBA Linking System.
https://www.qrz.com/db/VK3RBA

Thursday Morning Coffee Club

Commences at 10:00AM at the BARG Club Rooms every Thursday.
Ballarat Airport - All Welcome.

VK3RBT Site Work.

Contributor Ian VK3YFD.

VK3RBT is getting closer to its installation on site, Ian VK3YFD, Peter VK3APW and our tower man, Andrew VK3TOT have got the phased dual dipoles installed at the Green Hill site.

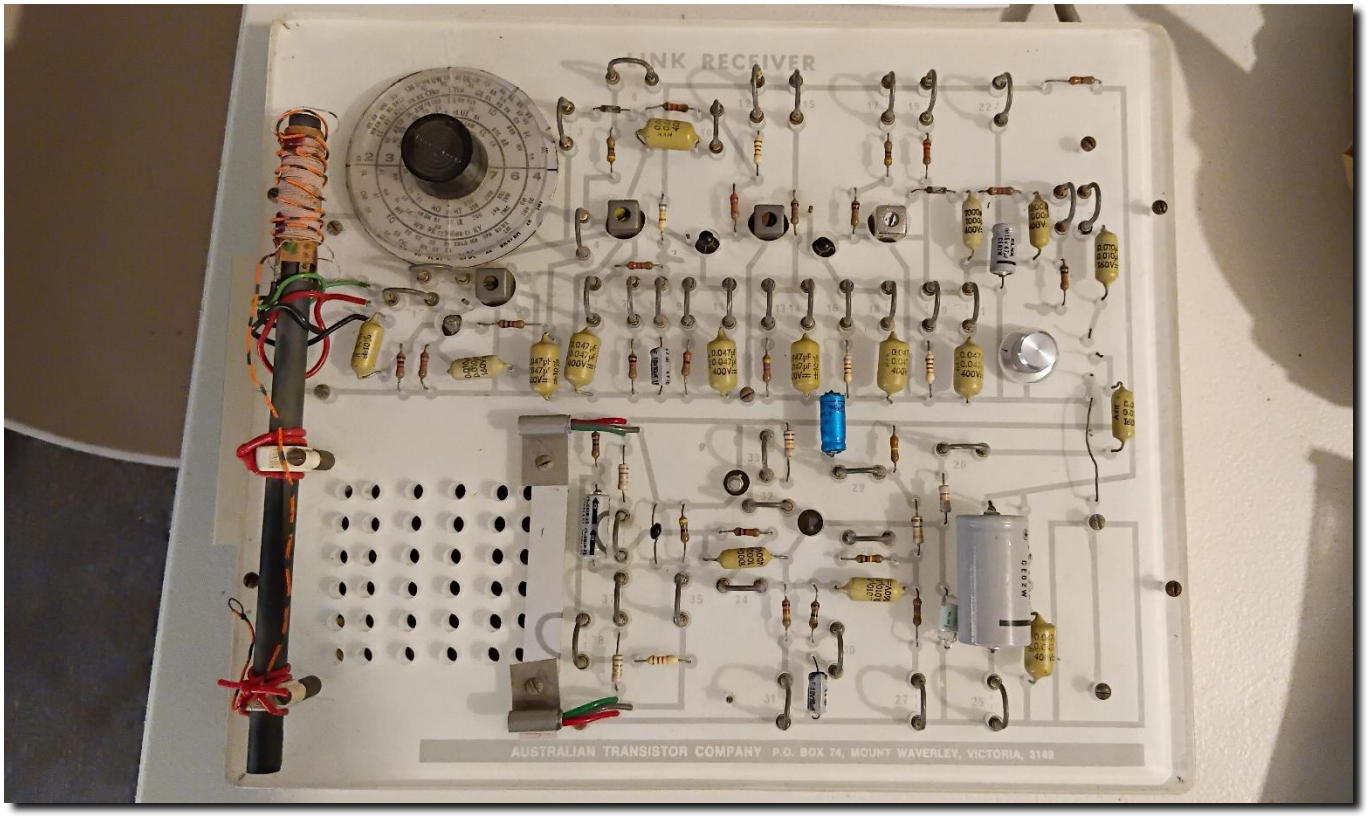
The ATC Link Training Radio – A Hands-On Lesson from the Early Transistor Era

Contributor Glenn VK3GLN / Tom VK3DMK

Glen VK3GLN bought a ATC Link Trainer Radio to a coffee morning. Purchased for a reasonable sum, this is one of 1000 produced and a bit of Australian radio history.

ATC Link Training Radio, a clever educational receiver produced in Melbourne by the Australian Transistor Company (ATC) in the late 1960s or early 1970s.

At first glance it looks like a simple transistor radio mounted on a large board. Look a little closer and the real purpose becomes obvious: the circuit is deliberately broken into functional sections that can be connected or disconnected using removable links. The result is a teaching tool that allows students to see — and hear — exactly how each stage of a superheterodyne receiver contributes to the overall operation.



The Australian Transistor Company Pty Ltd, based in Melbourne, addressed this need by producing educational electronics equipment. Despite the company name, ATC was not a semiconductor manufacturer. Instead, it specialised in training equipment, hobby electronics hardware and instrument enclosures aimed at schools, technical colleges and experimenters.

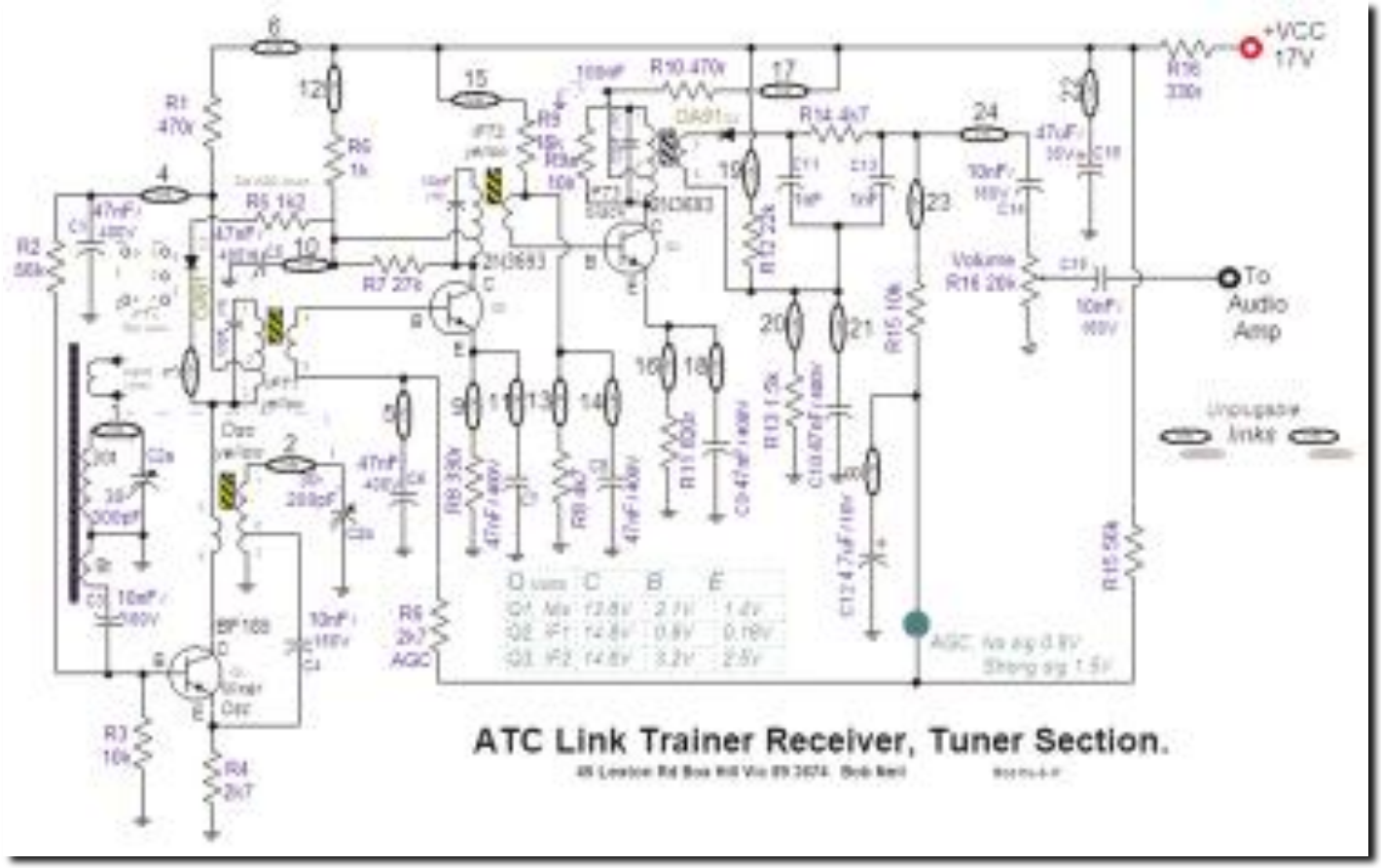
Among their more interesting products was the Link Training Radio, a device designed specifically to demonstrate the operation of a transistorised superheterodyne receiver.

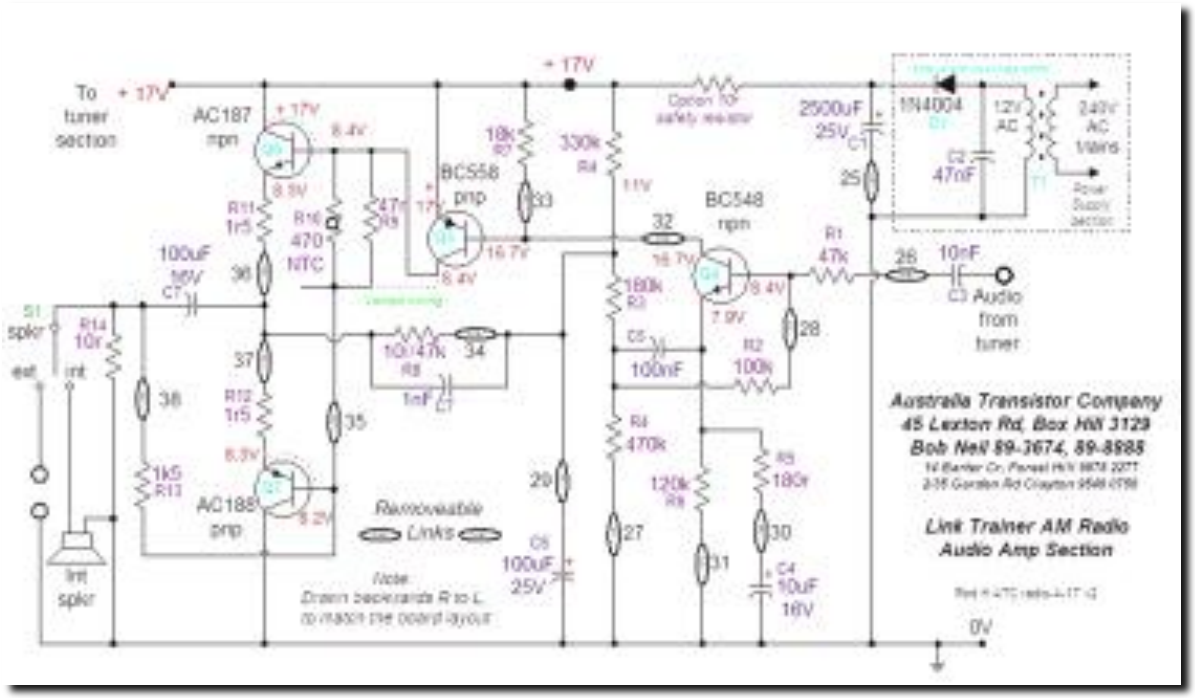
The clever feature of the ATC training radio is the use of removable metal links to connect the various stages of the circuit. Each functional block of the receiver is brought out to a pair of terminals. A short plug-in link joins the terminals to complete the signal path.

When all the links are in place the receiver functions as a normal transistor radio. However, by removing one or more links the instructor can disable individual stages and demonstrate their effect on the receiver.

This simple idea allows a wide range of experiments. Removing the oscillator link stops the receiver from tuning stations. Disconnecting an IF stage reduces sensitivity

dramatically. Breaking the audio path produces silence even though the RF stages are still operating.

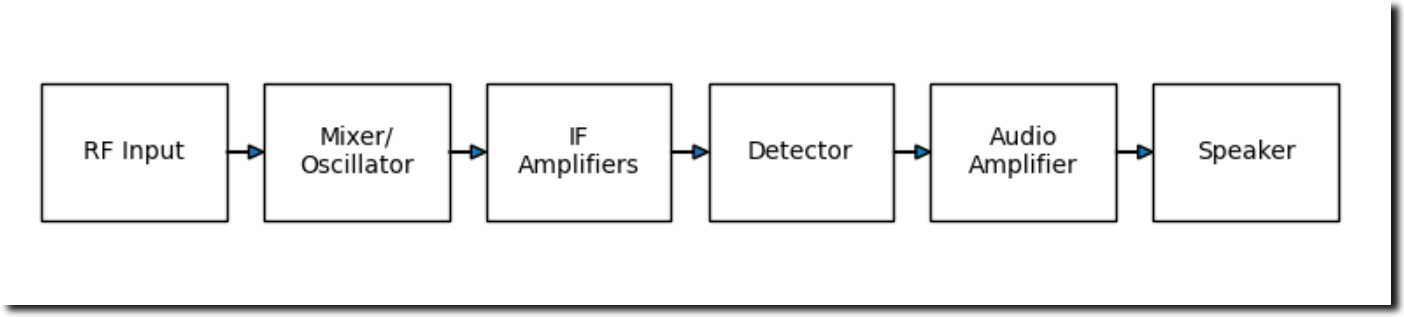




The ATC unit appears to be based on a conventional six-transistor AM broadcast receiver, a common design of the period. The signal flow follows the familiar architecture used in countless transistor radios:

RF Input Stage → Mixer / Local Oscillator → IF Amplifiers → Detector → Audio Amplifier → Loudspeaker

Most receivers of this type used germanium transistors and operated from a 9-volt battery supply.



Radio Section, Links and their subjective effect on performance

Radio / RF Link Number:	Function In The Circuit	Fault Effect	Comment
1	o/c aerial coil tuning	Noise only	
2	o/c LO tune capacitor	Low noise, no tuning	
3	Delayed AGC	No difference	Would stop overloading
4	Mixer bias o/c	No sound	No local oscillator
5	AGC RF bypass	Low volume	May overload strong sig
6	VCC to mixer	No sound	No B+
7	IFamp1 bias too high	Low volume	Would overload strong sig
8	AGC bypass o/c	Sounds off tune	May oscillate whilst tuning
9	IF amp1 emitter resistor o/c	No sound	
10	IF amp supply RF bypass o/c	Little difference	Compensated by AGC
11	IF amp emitter RF bypass o/c	Little difference	Compensated by AGC
12	B+ feed to IF amp 1 o/c	No sound	No B+ for IF amp, no o/p
13	IF amp2, bias too high	Low volume, loss treble	IF amp clipping
14	IF amp2, RF bypass o/c	Low volume	degeneration
15	IF amp2, base bias nil	No sound	Transistor cut off, no o/p
16	IF amp2, emitter o/c	No sound	Transistor cut off, no o/p
17	IF amp2, no B+	No sound	Transistor has no B+, no o/p
18	IF amp2, emitter bypass o/c	Low volume	degeneration
19	Pre bias to detector diode o/c	Slightly low volume	Weak stations only
20	Pre-bias shunt resistor o/c	No sound	Diode on all the time
21	Detector pre bias bypass o/c	No difference	Weak stations only
22	Filter capacitor o/c	No difference, hum	
23	AGC Bias feed o/c	Low volume	Incorrect AGC bias
24	Audio out coupling o/c	No go	No audio to volume control

www.radiomuseum.org

https://www.radiomuseum.org/r/atc_atc_link_training_radio.html

Traveller; I need a passport so I can go to Australia.
Clerk; Have you ever been convicted of a crime?
Traveller; Is.. is that still necessary?

If you know Edam Cheese, you know its made backwards…

AX Callsigns on Anzac Day When Two Letters on the Air Carry a Nation's Memory

Each year on Anzac Day (25 April), Australians pause to remember the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served their country in war, conflict, and peacekeeping operations.

Across the nation the day begins with dawn services, marches, and quiet reflection. For Australian amateur radio operators, there is also a unique way to mark the occasion: the temporary use of the AX callsign prefix.

For one day only, the familiar VK prefix that identifies Australian amateur stations can be replaced with AX, transforming callsigns across the country and placing Anzac remembrance directly onto the airwaves. It's a small change—but one with real meaning.

From VK to AX.

Under normal circumstances, Australian amateur radio operators use the internationally allocated VK prefix, followed by a numeral identifying their state or territory and their personal suffix.

Examples include:
VK3CBA – Victoria
VK2ABC – New South Wales
VK4XYZ – Queensland

On 25 April, operators may replace the VK prefix with AX for the duration of Anzac Day.

For example:
VK3ZYX becomes AX3ZYX
VK2ABC becomes AX2ABC

The rest of the callsign remains unchanged and the substitution applies only for the 24 hours of Anzac Day.

The ability for Australian amateurs to use the AX prefix comes from provisions within Australia's amateur radio licensing framework administered by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA). These provisions allow the use of special event prefixes on significant national occasions.

Two commonly recognised examples are:
AX – used on Anzac Day
VI – used for special events and commemorations

Unlike many special event callsigns that require individual applications, the AX prefix may be used by any Australian amateur licensee on Anzac Day.

The AX prefix has become a familiar part of Australian amateur radio culture over the years. While exact administrative arrangements have evolved with changes to licensing regulations, the idea behind the prefix has remained the same: a simple and nationally recognisable way for Australian operators to mark Anzac Day on the air.

Because the change only involves the first two letters of a callsign, it allows thousands of operators across Australia to participate without complicated paperwork. Over time this has created a unique nationwide on-air tribute heard around the world each year.

In amateur radio, prefixes carry meaning. Operators around the world listen carefully for unusual prefixes because they often indicate special events or rare operations.

When AX callsigns suddenly appear across the bands, operators overseas quickly notice something different and often ask why Australian stations are using AX instead of VK. That question provides an opportunity to explain the significance of Anzac Day and its place in Australian history.

Although AX callsigns can generate excitement on the bands, many operators treat the day with appropriate respect. Some choose to mention Anzac Day during contacts, operate commemorative stations, or share historical information with interested operators.

Few countries have such a simple but meaningful amateur radio tradition. By replacing VK with AX for one day each year, Australian amateurs create a nationwide on-air tribute heard around the world. It is a reminder that amateur radio can carry more than signals and conversations—it can also carry remembrance.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Call_signs_in_Australia
https://www.wia.org.au/newsevents/news/2021/20210425-1/index.php

Hugh O'Rorke M.B.E. - Pioneer of CFA Radio Communications

Contributed from the “Historic Lake Bolac” Facebook site.
Thanks to. Phil Murray, Lake Bolac and District Historical Society.
pnSoeosdtrg7hm99i0trs e9c6l3ug0h8t6di:31t70t gmiy8a8ahgYt13e

Former Lake Bolac and Westmere resident, Hugh Michael O'Rorke was a pioneer in the development of CFA radio communications which today are an essential part of any fire fight and taken as a granted.

Here is Hugh's story.

Hugh Michael O'Rorke was born at Brim in 1890 and arrived in Lake Bolac with his parents Hugh and Annie and his 7 siblings in 1906. The family had travelled from Brim in a wagon to take up land purchased under the 'Closer Settlement' scheme. The farm was located adjacent to Lake Bolac and so the property was named 'Lake View'.

Hugh farmed 'Lake View' with his brother Leo until he joined the 39th Battalion AIF in Ballarat in 1916.

His WW1 service in France was short after being gassed, then severely wounded during the 'Battle for Broodseinde Ridge' in October 1917.

After convalescing in England, he returned home and was discharged in 1918, married Dorothy Dunbar in 1919 and took up a Soldier Settlement block at Westmere which they named 'Killigrew'. The home still stands and is the first home on the left as you enter Westmere from Lake Bolac before the speed restriction signs.

In 1940 the Lake Bolac Bush Fire Brigade asked Hugh to purchase phone instruments which were placed at R A Austin's (Captain), R Hargreaves (Lt) at Lake Bolac and Hugh's home at Westmere.

In December 1946 the Wireless Institute of Australia said that amateur radio operators had the technical expertise and equipment needed to transmit the 'radio for fires'. The CFA were strongly against such a system but a 12-month trial began, and the first Rural Fire Brigade Radio Transmission was made from Hugh's home at Westmere on December 19th, 1946, from VL3KJ on 572KHZ. The idea was to operate mobiles at fires back to Westmere Base at 'Killigrew'. Hugh became known as the 'Chief'.

Hugh toured many parts of Victoria with Westmere Group members demonstrating Fire Radio. He even demonstrated their use in Western Australia in 1962.

Hugh was awarded the M.B.E. (Member of the British Empire) in 1955 in recognition of his pioneering work in Fire Brigade Communications and for his Public Service in the district. He became Chairman of the CFA from July 1958 to July 1959.

From humble beginnings in a room at 'Killigrew' the volunteer run Westmere Fire Brigades' Group has evolved into an organisation of 19 Fire Brigades with over 400 privately owned fire units. It covers an area of over 400,000 hectares (one million acres) in the Western District of Victoria - one of the most dangerous fire weather regions in the world.

Among his many interests was photography and we are fortunate to have many of the photos he took in the Bolac and Westmere area between 1910 and 1915 in our collection. Many of his photos have also been shared on the Western District Families Facebook page over the years.

Hugh passed away in 1962 and is buried in the Lake Bolac Cemetery. A truly great Australian!

Information Source - The O'Rorke chapter in our publication 'Settlers on the Shores', Edited by Karen McIntyre 2003.

My thanks to Hugh's granddaughter Lisa McCormick for sending through photographs for use in this post.

From AMATEUR RADIO Magazine, February 1947

Trove, https://archive.org/details/wia_amateur_radio_1947-02/mode/2up

VICTORIAN BUSH FIRE COMMUNICATIONS

An account of some experiments conducted, and tests made in Bush Fire' Regions 4 and 5 (Hamilton Area) by VK3TW and VK3YN.

It was realised at the outset that approaching the bush fire radio control matter in a haphazard way would inevitably reflect on the future success or otherwise of what may well become one of the most advanced developments in bush fire control.

Firstly, a system had to be evolved, and procedure adopted whereby radio could be employed in the most effective manner and with the least possibility of creating a position of utter chaos. It was realised that time was the essence of the contract this season and therefore the following scheme evolved and put into operation.

We must first realise that fires of the type-experienced in the Western District can quite easily obtain a front of over three miles, and travel at a speed of up to ten miles per hour, which makes mobility a primary, consideration.

Each brigade will be fighting its own section of the fire as a unit and under its own Captain, who, in turn, would operate under the control of the central fire officer, located at the base transmitter together, with his auxiliary firefighting units.

Each brigade will have at its disposal a small portable transmitter and receiver with a range sufficient to remain in contact with the forward control unit, in this case a mobile 20 watt transmitter, which in turn will be in communication with the base station.

Every home and many cars have broadcast receivers and to take advantage of this set up' it was resolved to enlist the aid of the local commercial station who would broadcast details of the fire and issue warnings to threatened areas at the request of the responsible fire officer, who has an intimate knowledge of the fire via the radio communication system.

https://news.cfa.vic.gov.au/news/80-years-of-cfa-s-fleet

One of the main technical problems was the maintaining of communication between the mobile forward unit and the base station over an area in excess of 2,500 square miles. It was thought that the low frequency end of the 3.5 Mc. band was as good as any available to amateurs, especially as the allocation of more suitable frequencies in the 2.5 Mc. region would take valuable time to procure and further it is a relatively simple matter to calculate the increase in field strength which would be obtained at lower frequencies from the measurements taken.

Preliminary calculations showed that, frequencies in the 3.5 Mc. region, a power of approximately 14 watts would be required to give satisfactory reception at the maximum distance of 60 miles, using a short vertical antenna for transmission. A transmitter was therefore constructed capable of this power output and field strength measurements were taken along all main roads radiating from the location of the base station to the boundary of the bush fire region concerned.

The results were very encouraging, and it was found possible to maintain mobile contact at a distance of 30 miles on roads entirely surrounded by mountain ranges in the Grampians. Owing to the high noise level at the base station, it was found desirable .to increase the field strength and as power was fixed the efficiency of the antenna at the mobile station was increased by centre loading. When this was done the range was extended to 55 miles through the poorest country in the area. Tests with ex-army equipment in this type of country proved them to have no practical use and plans are. well in hand for the modification of sets type FS6 and 108 to render them serviceable for brigade to mobile communication.

A great deal of development work is yet to be done, although sufficient has been accomplished, in collaboration with the regional fire officer (Mr. K. Eales), to provide a workable system for this summer and a nucleus for expansion in preparation for the 1948 season. A surprising feature of the tests was the close adherence of the practical results obtained to the calculated results obtained from wave propagation formulae.

Since the writing of the above, the communications net in the Hamilton area have attended two serious fires and, in both cases were at the scene of the fire before the brigades arrived and the results proved conclusively the value of radio communications under such circumstances.

By Autopilot - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=39679782

Hams concerned in this case were VK3MC, VK3HG, VK3TW and VK3YN.

In other areas there is considerable activity; VK3QC has installed a mobile on the brigade truck at Terang and operated another mobile from his own panel van. One fire has been attended which was caused by lightning, and in spite of serious QRN, 100% communication was obtained from the scene of the fire to the town.

VK3AMP has spent considerable time in building and converting ex-service gear for use in bush fire communications. Using a rebuilt 19 set with plate modulation from a class B 6N7 and a 12-foot whip antenna he did a tour starting from Colac through Cressy, Lismore, Camperdown and back to Colac and in no case did his signal strength fall below R7.

VK3GN at Ararat has also been busy and had built a complete transmitter for -VL3KJ. VK3TA at Horsham has three mobile units ready for any emergency, and VK3BI at Ballarat in conjunction with VK3IV are also ready with a 7 Mc. outfit and are converting a 109. VK3JA is acting as a sub-base for VK3QC, VK3EQ at Warrnambool has established a base station and VK3ZU is acting as mobile.

South East Radio Group
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

JUNE 7th 2026

Mount Gambier SA

SERG Annual Convention & Dinner – Sun 7th, plus the Australian Fox-Hunt Championship Sat 6th & Sun 7th

Scout Hall, 3 Margaret St.

- Huge trade displays
- used equipment tables
- home-brew competition
- door prizes, raffles.

www.serg.org.au Email bookings to - convention@serg.org.au

Another article from Trove.

Camperdown Chronicle (Vic. : 1875 - 1954), Tuesday 5 January 1954, page 4

FIRE SUPPRESSION NOTES

RESIDENTS of Lismore district are asked to refresh their memories on the following details of fire prevention and suppression.

CONTROL CENTRE

Mr. N. G. Dean, of Lismore, is again generously making available his office and staff to provide facilities for the control officers. These are Messrs. N. G. Dean and John Ryan.

FIRE REPORTS

Lismore area: Any outbreak of five should be reported by telephone to the control officer at Lismore, 148 or 88 during business hours; otherwise Lismore 48, 118, 63 or 139.

The control officer will then notify fire-fighting personnel and residents of areas liable to be affected.

Other areas: Outbreaks should be initially reported to the local brigade, then to the local mobile radio operator, and then to Lismore control centre.

After a telephone subscriber has reported a fire on or near his property, it is most desirable for some adult to remain near the telephone to deal with enquiries by control until a wireless mobile arrives.

FIRE INFORMATION

To help telephone lines clear for urgent traffic, residents should avoid telephone enquiries about the progress of any fire. Instead they should keep themselves informed by listening to the short wave transmissions of the appropriate rural fire brigade wireless communication service. These are as follows:

Darlington - Berrybank - Leslie Manor area: VL3NL or VL3EJ on 60.6 metres.

Dunkeld - Ararat - Skipton area: VL3KJ on 57.0 metres.

Ballarat area: VL3LT on 67.0 metres.

Rokewood area: VL3KH on 66.6 metres.

Mortlake area: VL3OQ on 98 metres.

Colac area: VL3ER on 65 metres.

REGISTRATION OF FIRE-FIGHTERS

Fire-fighters are only covered by insurance against injury through the Country Fire Authority if they have been previously registered by their brigades with the C.F.A.

It is therefore most important that everyone likely to be involved in fire-fighting and break-burning be re-registered early.

FIRE PRECAUTIONS

- Fit spark arrestors and knapsacks to tractors as prescribed.
- Avoid operating tractors and motor vehicles in crop or grass on dangerous days. If in doubt ask your nearest brigade officer.
- Ensure that your home is as "fire-proof" as it can be made.

National Library of Australia http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article24005771
Also https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/243539744

Grassfire near the VK3RBT Repeater Site

Contributor Doug VK3DRE

We had a small grass fire in our back paddock yesterday afternoon, It started at our neighbours on the North side and burnt through two of his paddocks and into ours. It wasn't a fierce fire, but it moved surprisingly quickly considering there wasn't a lot of grass, and no wind to speak of.

It probably got within about 80 or 90 metres of the repeater site.

Five fire trucks attended, and the helicopter dumped two loads of water.

Our horses were unharmed, although a bit spooked by the helicopter - they are fine today.

I have attached a very poor photo, you'll need to zoom in to see the repeater hut.

Cheers Doug VK3DRE

The DLARC Archive — Amateur Radio's Memory Bank

Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications

The Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications is a library of materials and collections related to amateur radio and early communications. The DLARC is funded by a significant grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications, a private foundation, to create a digital library that documents, preserves, and provides open access to the history of this community.

A couple of months ago with the kindness of Steve N8GNJ who edits an online Amateur Radio newsletter called Zero Retries, Ballarat Amateur Radio Group newsletter was nominated for inclusion in this growing international archive. This ensures our local activities, technical articles, and club history will be preserved and accessible to amateurs, researchers, and future generations worldwide.

This month the current BARG Newsletter archive has been uploaded to DLARC.

https://archive.org/details/dlarc

To go directly to the BARG archive;

https://archive.org/search?query=barg

Why we need DLARC

There is a serious problem slowly creeping into amateur radio — and it's not QRM, solar cycles, or digital modes.

It's forgetting.

For over 100 years amateurs documented everything: circuits, measurements, experiments, mistakes, antenna failures, receiver alignment tricks, and the weird little practical knowledge that never makes it into textbooks. Nearly all of it lived in paper form — club newsletters, handbooks, bulletins, and magazines.

And paper has a nasty long-term reliability problem: it gets thrown out.

When a silent key workshop is cleared, families understandably don't keep 40 years of old radio magazines. Entire collections — sometimes decades of engineering knowledge — have historically gone straight into skips.

That's exactly why the Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications (DLARC) exists.

What DLARC Actually Is

DLARC is a massive international project dedicated to preserving the written technical history of radio communications.

It is not just a magazine scan site.

It is a digitally curated engineering archive, hosted by the Internet Archive, where physical collections from clubs, estates, and organisations are professionally scanned, catalogued, and preserved permanently online.

In simple terms: if a radio amateur wrote it, designed it, built it, repaired it, measured it, or argued about it — DLARC wants to save it.

What You'll Find There

Club newsletters from the 1930s onward

Amateur Radio Handbooks across multiple decades

Technical bulletins and service notes
Construction articles
Test equipment manuals
Government and military communications documents
Early VHF and microwave experimentation
Valve receiver alignment procedures
Obsolete semiconductor application notes
Antenna experiments from times long gone. Some are the only surviving copies.

Why It Matters (More Than Nostalgia)

DLARC is not just interesting reading — it's practical.

Modern amateurs regularly run into problems like repairing older equipment, restoring classic radios, designing power supplies, building antennas that work, understanding noise sources, and grounding and interference issues.

Here's the uncomfortable truth: a lot of these problems were already solved… in 1958.

DLARC has effectively unlocked a century of hands-on engineering experience. You are no longer limited to what modern forums remember.

The Hidden Benefit

DLARC is quietly preserving practical engineering knowledge that was often never formally taught.

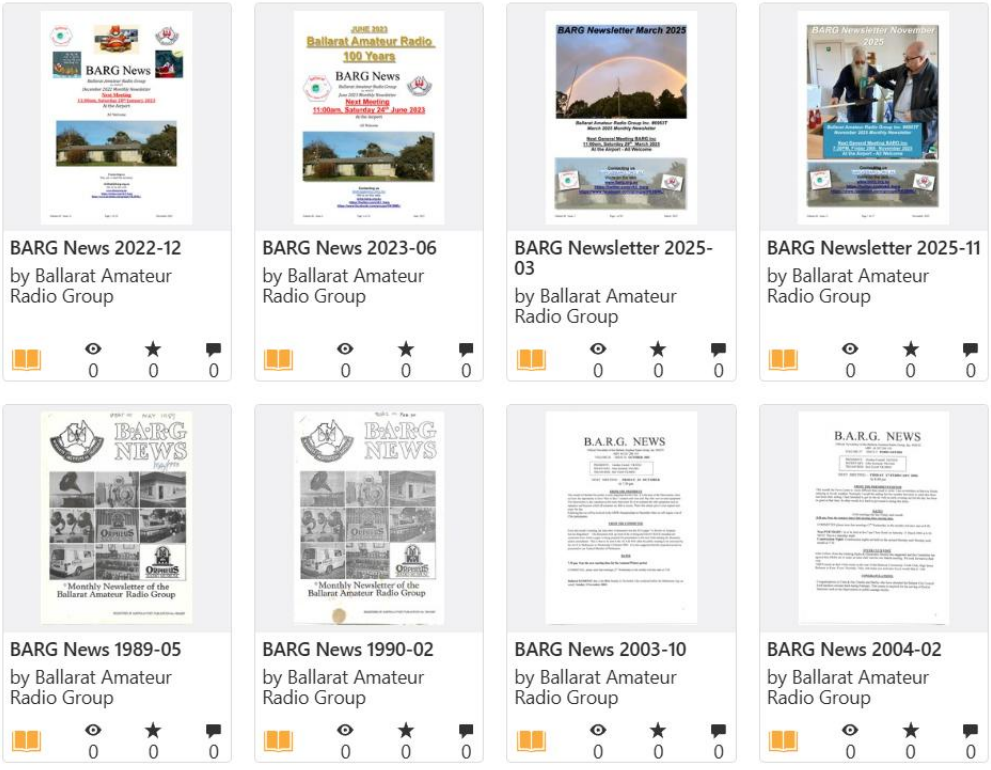
For the first time, amateur radio has a permanent technical memory.

How You Can Use It

You don't need an account, and you don't need to pay. You just search and read.

Looking for alignment procedures, antenna ideas, receiver filtering, or grounding techniques? Someone probably already wrote about it decades ago — and now you can read it instantly.

https://archive.org/search?query=barg



Mills On The Air 2026

Magazine Reviews

QST Review March 2026

P9. Second Century. Clubs? Are they what a new amateur is expecting when they get their licence? Are clubs really welcoming to these new chums? Does a club provide enough interesting lectures and activities to keep the enthusiasm in them. What about on-air activities? are they engaging enough for a newcomer to really get in and share ideas that fit the "norm" of thought and action of others. Its hard-to-get new members so why not make it hard for them to leave,

P17. A compact 630metre antenna for AR. Friendly for Housing groups. Lightweight and only 24 foot high. It has a ground plane of 10-25ft radius, a centre loaded and base fed capacitive hat.
Its commercial but doesn't it get your juices moving to try and get on the band with your own homemade one?
See Info@theRADIOsource.com to find details.

P30. Revisiting the Quagi antenna. This is a simple eight element Yagi on 432MHz used for both terrestrial contacts as well as satellite. This is a very simple construction project and the simple 50-ohm feed at the Driven element centre and the reflector is about 5% larger but is a closed loop at feed dipole.
Details for this were taken from the ARRL Antenna Book and can also be used for 1296MHz antenna as well. This will make an easy club construction project and maybe excite members to make some contacts on 70 cm and even on 23cm.

P34. Again, another antenna project that has taken a designed MOXY antenna on 6M and optimised itself to operate on 2M, 6M, and 10M Bands. The author provides three separate tabulations with elements and boom details for "three to six element 2 Meter beam", and Three to Six element 6M Moxy beam and three to six element Moxy beam for ten metres. Performance figures for the 2M beam shows an SWR of 1:1.02 at 144.5MHz and a normal looking rise to 1.2 at 147.5 which is quite acceptable.

Here again is another project for the club's enthusiasts 'to consider for three more bands

P38. Light weight portable HF Glove antenna. Following on a 2 Metre Glove antenna design in Jan QST 2023 here is another suitable for 10, 15, 17 and 20M The use of a grey or brown tarpaulin of 10x10 foot as the base and four HW Dipoles cut for the listed bands are laid out on the tarp and they all feed from a common point in a junction box which sits on the tarp. The individual wire dipoles are then laid on the tarp but twisted to allow symmetry and have fold over sections on the ends to allow exact resonance. A fabric tube is fixed to the tarp and the wire dipoles fed thru these tubes; Junction box is stitched into the term also. A tabulation gives the dimensions for the device dipoles in feet.

P42. Review: Chelegance KC4 Four band Vertical antenna.

P45. Review. Elecraft AX3 Whip Antenna and the AXE1-40 -Meter Extender.

P48. Review: Halibut Electronics G1LRO Universal Radio Controller.

P50. Radio Oddity HF-009. Portable HF antenna. 100W capable and 5-50 MHz.

P52. SI4732 Mini Radio Receiver users SDR technology and sits in a very small box with a 800 mAh capacity batt [more than 10hrs] Although the review isn't kind to the rig in review its only US$32 online from www.amazon.com

P54. Ask Dave. Technical talk on antennas, Studying and sitting CW versus CWR receiver modes. Bal and Unbal Baluns.

P56. Hints and Hacks. Using and EV car in field. Stabilise the cw key in place, using a heating tool for solder pasting and shrink tubing.

P58. Emergency ops in Bangladesh floods 2024.

P60. Read about GPS used on a six-day cycling tour and how amateurs carry various gear for the race.

P63. USB and connectivity with amateur devices.

P66. Thought about an ATTIC antenna? W4KVS has worked 300 countries. Also read his article in QST of March 2004

P80. Public Service How it has grown, Evolved and Enhances the ability to provide service to community. Interesting to see the regulation from the FCC in Regulation 97.313(a) which still mandates the use of the lowest power of the TX when communicating, ie do not use 100Watts when say a level of 10 or even 5 W will still provide excellent communication. I guess there will still be the "LIDDS" about that run a million watts to work a mate just around the corner. Can compare how a low power cw signal can beat a 10 or 100W signal as well.

P82. Club Station: How the club can collaboratively build some projects like a digital watt meter or dummy loads using projects from QST. An idea for BARG club.

P84, How's DX. Sable Island CY0S [Out in the Atlantic Ocean. It's a crescent shaped 45km long island.] An activation will be held by the San Diego DX Club from March 19 to 31 in 2026.
Further details at www.CY0S.com

P86. Above 50MHz. VHF Online chat rooms ensuring valid contacts the article lists several sites and even covers what is required for an valid QSO if chasing awards.

P94. Looking back at QST of April 1976.
An ITV Notch filter for six metres using coax stubs.

P97. Celebrate our Legacy, read about some other experiences.

P98. Classic radio; Brief history of Pioneer-Standard electronics AR Department store. Although short it's interesting to read about mixed business company that failed

P100. QST March, 100, 50 and 25 years ago, index,

P126. QST Index of Advertisers,

P127. Services Web site addresses that may be useful to readers.

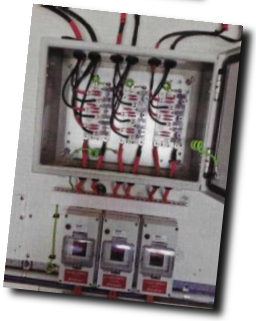
Cheers Craig VK3KG

Silicon Chip Review March 2026

P3 Editorial Viewpoint. Nicholas Vinen. The effect of AI on the price of RAM as AI increases in usage globally.

P18 The History of Intel. David VK3DSM. Part 2. Looks at the evolution of hardware, Pentium, Celeron, Xeon and higher clock speeds and number of cores to the present time.

P28 Solar Panel Protector and Optimiser. Ian Ashford. A simple design that provides lightning induced voltage spike protection, maximum DC load of 60A, 120V maximum open circuit string voltage, ability to connect the units in parallel to increase protection and current control. A full set of construction and wiring instructions and setup and testing procedures.



P39 Circuit Notebook. Converting a mousetrap into a third hand for soldering SMDs.

P40 Power Electronics. Part 5. Power Factor Correction. Andrew Levide. Looks at EMI and how PF correction can minimise it. Example circuits and how they perform PF correction and calculating what component values you may need for your installation. X and Y capacitors and a practical active correction circuit.

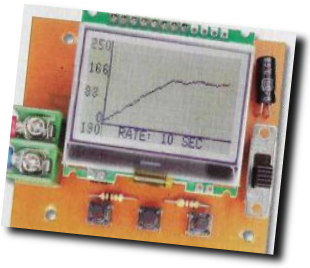
P49 DCC Booster and Reverse Loop Controller. Tim Blythman. A booster to allow expansion of your railway layout and some added logic to let you have a reversing loop and control without tears using a PIC16F18146 microcontroller.

P60 Self-powered Wireless Switches. Tim Blythman. Looks at the TEL0146 RF switching module and how the commercially available units work, then with some Arduino programming how an Arduino can talk to and control these devices.

P66 Tips and Tricks for wiring new homes. Julian Edgar. Goes through the process of finding what wiring products are available these days for the many electrical/electronic jobs that are done in a modern home. From conduit to cable ties, dimmers and junction boxes and security cameras and detectors.

P71 Internet Radio. Part 2. Phil Prosser. Continues with the wiring and assembly of the hardware, connecting and using the radio to view/listen to content.

P78 Low-Cost Graphing Thermometer. Andrew Woodfield. Using just an ATtiny85 microcontroller, 128 x64 pixel LCD screen and some temperature sensing hardware produces a compact and low component count versatile thermometer.



P84 Serviceman's Log. Doing the dirty work. Dishwasher that stops mid cycle, a drowned boat radio, microwave repair, inverter and a NAD stereo receiver.

P92 Vintage Radio. RCA Radiola 17 (AR-927) radio from 1927. At time of release, it was $157.50 US or US$2900 or AUD$4450. Simple in design and construction this radio needed 5 different power supplies to function. This was provided by a transformer with many secondary windings and a rectifier valve, making the radio a seven-valve unit. An interesting restoration story, replacing many time weary components.

Ballarat Amateur Radio Group Inc
Registration Number A0006953T
ABN 44 247 200 143
Application for Club Membership

This completed document can be emailed to the Secretary at BARG@BARG.ORG.AU, or brought along to a face to face meeting.

Surname: _____ **Given Names:** _____

Callsign: _____

Are you a financial member of WIA?: **Yes** **No** *(Required for Insurance purposes)*

Partner's Name:_____

Residential Address: _____

Postcode:_____

Postal Address: _____
(If different to above)

Telephone;
*(Work)*_____ (*Home*) _____ (*Mobile*)_____

Email Address_____

Newsletters and Club information will be sent to your email address. If you require Special Club notices and Newsletters to be delivered by Australia Post to your mailing address, this will attract an additional cost of $30 per annum.

If the Club decides to publish a Club Directory, are you willing to have your Given name, callsign and telephone number? Please indicate: **Yes** **No**

By applying for membership I indicate my support of the purposes of the Association and agree to comply with the Association rules and any supplementary rules in effect.

Applicant's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Proposed By: _____ **Callsign:** _____ **Date:** _____

Seconded By: _____ **Callsign:** _____**Date:** _____

--ooOOoo--

Presented to Committee: _____ **Decision:** Accept / Reject

Fee Paid: $_____ **Date:** _____**Receipt No.** (if applicable:)_____

Entered into Membership Register:_____ **Secretary**: _____

BARG Form - Membership Application Form (was V3) Rev PA12.docx 1of 1